(d) if so, the recommendations of the team; and

(e) the action initiated by Government to come to the aid of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Declaration of drought is done by the State Governments concerned taking into various factors including deficient rainfall and cropped area damaged.

(b) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra have reported drought situation due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon-2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The report of the Central Team was considered and in view of the balances available with .the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), it was decided that, to begin with, funds available in the CRF be utilized and that the situation could be reviewed at a later date. The State Government was suitably informed.

Procurement of Copra

1981. SHRI V V RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have ordered the procuring agencies to procure Copra from the cultivators;

(b) if so, when the order was issued and since when the procurement has started and at what prices; and

, (c) the names of procurement agencies and the quantity procured so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has issued directions to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) on 3-4-2001 to procure Copra under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at the minimum support price of Rs. 3300/-perqtlforMillingCopraandRs. 3550/-perqtl for Ball Copra during 2001 season. NAFED has in turn directed all State Designated Agencies on 16-4-2001 to

commence the procurement of Copra under PSS. The State-wise procurement of Copra commenced as follows:—

State/UT	Date
A & N Islands	1-04-2001
Goa	13-10-2001
Karnataka	29-10-2001

Kerala. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh—These State Governments are in the process of finalizing the arrangements for procurement of Copra under PSS through their State agencies. The procuremen. is likely to commence soon.

(c) NAFED is the Central Nodal Agency for procurement of Oilseeds and Pulses including Copra under the PSS. NAFED in turn involves State Level Cooperative Federations for procurement under the Scheme. NAFED has so far procured a quantity of 10.107 MTs of Copra under PSS during 2001 season.

National Disaster Management Plan

1982. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering VSA type disaster management plan;

(b) whether a National Disaster Management Plan has been finalized;

(c) if so, what are its salient features;

(d) if not. what is the present stage; and

(e) by when a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MTNISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) A National Committee on Disaster Management has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister with a wide mandate which includes deliberating on necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with natural calamities in future. The Committee is yet to submit its Report.

Foodgrains to Chhattisgarh under Emergency Relief Fund

† l983. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL ; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the quantity of foodgrains distributed free

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.